

## Leta Howard

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**From:** stephanie measzros <measzros@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, June 7, 2015 3:06 PM  
**To:** Leta Howard; The Office of Senator Knollenberg  
**Subject:** Opposition to SB 280

As a Kalamazoo Public Schools employee and public school music teacher of 11 years, I am AGAINST SB 280. It is imperative that teachers retain the right to work with union representatives in order to ensure the best outcomes for students, teachers and all school personnel. **Union release time provides time for planning, collaboration and problem solving.** It allows time for collaboration between union representatives and administrators to solve problems before they become crises. This kind of problem solving saves time and money. Union representatives and administrators also collaborate on education related issues such as professional development.

**Local Control would be lost if this bill is implemented.** Local school districts, especially larger ones like Kalamazoo Public Schools, see the need for release time presidents and association days and bargain that into the collective bargaining agreement with teachers. With hundreds of staff members, school boards have bargained these provisions because they understand better than anyone how these locally bargained arrangements help their districts run more efficiently. I support local control and oppose legislative mandates that prohibit release time.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Measzros

Music Teacher, El Sol Elementary, KPS